

Tracy Oasis Marina-Resort

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FEB 07 2006

00131

February 4, 2006

Paul Marshall
South Delta Improvements Program
Bay-Delta Office
California Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall,

We are the owners of the Tracy Oasis Marina-Resort. This business has been in my family since 1967 and I have operated it for over 32 years. This letter contains our comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Environmental Impact Report for the South Delta Improvement Project. The rock barrier on Grant Line Canal damages our business and this project will make that damage even worse.

The temporary rock barrier on Grant Line Canal has reduced the number of customers that use our marina. The portage facility on the Grant Line Canal does not allow larger boats to pass. Our marina has 26 foot and larger berth slips that are not being utilized nearly as much as before the barriers. For many years after the barriers were installed it caused silting in the harbor. This silting caused many problems for boater. The area under the store which is for guest docking could only be used at high tide and the adjacent docks would sit on the mud and making them uneven to walk on. The harbor entrance silted in on one side and many boats would run aground. Some of the 26' and 30' were so shallow that at low tide the boats would sit on the bottom. The harbor was dredged some years ago, but the damage had already been done to the people that moved out. Most of the 30 foot slips are empty even though over the years we have reduced our monthly rates on 26' and 30' berths in an effort to rent them. Our 30 foot covered berths with electric service have been virtually empty for over 5 years. These berths were our most preferred berths we have. Houseboating in our area was very popular before the barriers were built. The areas above where a anchorage for houseboats on weekends and great vacation spots. By reducing the rates, not filling the berths and not being able to stay at the industry standard rates this has caused us to be unable to keep up with normal maintenance. Rising cost of insurance and utilizes each year must be paid for even if the berths are not full.

Fuel and store sales are down and the lower water levels from the barrier also caused problems for our boat launching ramp. When the tides would be low and during the summer they are lower than when the barrier are not installed, we would run out of launch ramp. People would have to wait sometimes for 3 hours to either launch their boat or get it out of the water. People would even drive to the other marina's to un-launch their boat, resulting in

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refunding the launch fee and very unhappy customers that would not come back and would also tell their friends about what happened. This situation caused us 2 years ago to install a new launch ramp that goes all the way to the bottom of river. This was a financial burden on the Marina when business was already down.

Prior to the barriers our marina was a very popular stop for water skiers on Grant Line Canal. For example members of the Golden Anchor Water Skiing Club were always skiing the Grant Line Canal and stopped for lunch or to fill there fuel take. Water skiers do not like to use the portage facility because of fear that there boats will be damaged and lost skiing time. Night fishing was very popular prior to the barriers, but it now very rare that they would utilize the marina because there is no portage at night. Boater just don't like the barrier and they remember that Grant Line Canal is a dead end and don't bother with it. It is not used as a main passage from Discovery Bay and other areas to the San Joaquin River as it was. People also forget that the barriers are seasonal and just avoid the area year around. The barriers have severely impacted our once thriving business.

Because the water skiing in this area has declined so much do the inconvenience of the barriers in the summer months, we have had to expand our once seasonal business to a year round business to make up for the loss of revenue. We now are open 12 months of the year and have redirected the business towards fishing because the barriers are not up in the winter months. Once the portage is installed west of the marina and the fish barrier is installed east of the marina the fishing business will also die off.

The SDIP proposes to build a permanent barrier near the west end of Grant Line Canal. This will impact our business even more severely than the temporary barrier. The construction of these permanent gates on Grant Line and Fabian Bell Canal's will reduce visitors to our business so badly that we may have to close down. Many of our patrons come from the West, and by building the gates at the west end of Grant Line Canal access to our marina will be restricted. With the temporary barriers to the east and construction of the gates to the west we will be cut off from any form of business.

Since most of our customers come from the west and these barriers will restrict them we don't know how long our business would last with your project in place. The temporary barriers impact our business and we fear it will only get worse. What is the SDIP going to do to mitigate impacts to our business?

Sincerely,

Korinne Flowers

Terry & Korinne Flowers

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TRANSMITTAL OF FAX

DATE: February 7, 2006

TO: Jacob McQuirk
Paul Marshall

FAX#: 916-653-9574

FROM: Korinne Flowers

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 x FOR YOUR INFORMATION
 PER YOUR REQUEST
 FOR YOUR REVIEW AND COMMENTS
 PLEASE REPLY
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Copy also send my US mail today.

Thank you

Korinne